

the development of their programs and services; and in terms of their ability to attract volunteers, secure grants and donations from area businesses and individuals.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating WE CAN, its staff, board, volunteers, community partners, and program participants on the celebration of 10 years of service to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HONORING GABRIEL ZIMMERMAN

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Gabriel Zimmerman, who tragically lost his life in the senseless shooting on January 8, 2011, that took 5 other lives and resulted in the serious wounding of our wonderful and resilient colleague, Representative GABBY GIFFORDS.

Gabe dedicated his life to helping others. On that day, he had organized a Congress on Your Corner event so that constituents could bring their problems to Representative GIFFORDS and her staff to get them solved. We have learned a lot about Gabe's commitment to service—his practice of going the extra mile to help improve the lives of so many.

In January 2007, Gabe began serving as Constituent Services Supervisor for newly-elected Congresswoman GIFFORDS. In that role, he oversaw an extensive constituent advocacy program, working directly with the people of Arizona's Eighth Congressional District every day. He then served as Congresswoman GIFFORDS' Director of Community Outreach, where he organized hundreds of events to allow constituents all over southern Arizona to meet with Congresswoman GIFFORDS. I know how much my colleague, Congresswoman GIFFORDS, relied on Gabriel and how much she valued their work together.

Margaret Bowe, a close college friend of Gabe, described him as "a warm, funny, energetic, smart, interesting person who was passionate about life." She went on to explain "Gabe's purpose, his motivation, his passion, was to help people, he believed in the ideals of our political system."

I remember that day well—my thoughts and concerns went out to those involved in that horrific event but also to my own staff, who work extremely hard, putting in long hours to serve the constituents of the 9th District of Illinois. Every one of them is committed to helping people and they are regularly in the same role that Gabriel was on that January morning. They do not get the recognition that they deserve, often enough.

Our staffs are out there in our communities every day, embodying the same values Gabe worked so hard for. In remembering Gabe, we also must salute the thousands of staffers across the country, who keep his memory alive by proudly serving their communities and country.

My thoughts and prayers go out to Gabe's family and friends, among them my colleague GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, who so deeply mourn his tragic death.

HONORING EMMA H. NEWSOME

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, Thirty-five years ago a virtuous woman of God accepted her calling to serve in the Atlanta Field Office of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); and Whereas, Mrs. Emma H. Newsome began her career working in various positions, she rose to the rank of Regional Director's Liaison and has served the citizens well and our community has been blessed through her service; and

Whereas, this phenomenal woman has shared her time and talents as a Coordinator, Deputy Director, Liaison and Motivator, giving the citizens of Georgia a person of great worth, a fearless leader and a servant to all who wants to advance the lives of the citizens in our region; and

Whereas, Mrs. Newsome is formally retiring from her governmental career today, she will continue to promote civic duty because she is a cornerstone in our community that has enhanced the lives of thousands for the betterment of our District and Nation; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mrs. Emma H. Newsome on her retirement from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and to wish her well in her new endeavors;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim November 4, 2011 as Mrs. Emma H. Newsome Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 4th day of November, 2011.

HONORING MICHAEL D. "MIKE" WALDEN

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Veterans of Foreign Wars Chowchilla Post 9896 Life Member Michael D. "Mike" Walden who served his country honorably from a very young age.

Mike was born in Los Angeles in 1946; he attended local area schools before enlisting in the United States Army in June of 1963, at the age of seventeen. He completed his basic training at Fort Ord, California, and later completed specialized training in armor warfare in Fort Knox, Kentucky. Mike was next sent to Korea for twelve months for duty with the 2nd Battalion of the 10th Cavalry, 7th Division at Camp Hansen located in the demilitarized zone. The unit provided security and conducted patrols while observing North Korean communist forces across the DMZ. Soon after, Mike returned to the States for duty with the 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry, and 5th Division. After extensive training, the division was transitioned into duty with the First Infantry Division, known as the "Big Red One". The "Big

Red One" remains one of the most storied divisions of the U.S. Army, having led the way for American troops in WWI, and during WWII, was the first Army Division to fight the Germans on North Africa, Sicily, the beaches of Normandy, and the Battle of the Bulge. During the summer of 1965, his division was the first Army division called to fight in Vietnam. Throughout 1965, his unit was involved in significant and major combat engagements.

Mike completed a twelve month tour in Vietnam; he returned to the United States in 1966 and was discharged five days after his twentieth birthday. After serving three years and two tours in Korea and Vietnam, he was still not old enough to legally purchase a beer. For his service, he was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Korea Defense Medal, among others.

After his retirement from the U.S. Army, Mike graduated from West Valley College and St. Mary's College and worked as a project support engineer. He and his wife, Gayla Darlene, make their home in Chowchilla with their two children. Mike is a Life Member of the Chowchilla VFW Post 9896 and an active member of his church.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Mr. Michael D. Walden for his honorable service to our great country, and wishing him the best of luck and health in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF ROSA PARKS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroic spirit of one of the most remarkable women in our nation's history by celebrating National Transit Tribute to Rosa Parks Day. Commonly known as "the first lady of civil rights" and "the mother of the freedom movement," Rosa Parks is a heroine who will be forever remembered for her courage to stand up for what she believed.

On that fateful December 1st evening in 1955, Rosa Parks had the strength to refuse to sit in the back of the bus, where blacks at the time were segregated from white riders in the front. By this simple yet heroic protest she inspired blacks across America to fight for their rights. I am honored to have been part of the Civil Rights Movement she helped fuel. Because of her vision for equality, America has made great strides toward a more perfect union.

It was a great privilege to attend the ceremony on October 28, 2005, when our nation bestowed Rosa Parks the highest honor by allowing her body to lie in honor in the Capitol of the United States Congress. She was the first American who had not been a government official to be paid this tribute. She was also the first woman and the second black person to lie in honor.

The story of Rosa Parks is proof that everyone in our great democracy, in this case a 42-year-old black woman from Montgomery, Alabama, can change the course of our country and help pave a better tomorrow for future generations. I hope we can be inspired by Rosa Parks to continue our fight for equality and justice for all Americans.